

SAIC0020-CJN
Serial No. 09/987,769

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PATENT

REMARKS

As set forth above, claims 8, 10, 13, and 14-17 have been amended to overcome the Office's rejections and claims 18 and 19 have been added. Claims 8-19 are pending. In the instant non-final Office Action mailed October 14, 2003, the Office rejected pending claims 8-17 pursuant to 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rogers et al. (Patent No. 6,139,694). In view of the amendments presented herein, the undersigned respectfully traverses this rejection as set forth below.

Patent No. 6,139,694 Does Not Anticipate Claims 8-19

Independent claim 8, as amended, includes the following limitations:

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for converting nitric oxide in exhaust gas into nitrogen dioxide, comprising:
a plasma reactor having a plurality of dielectrically-coated electrodes defining at least one reaction zone receiving the gas, said dielectrically-coated electrodes each having an electrode plate completely enclosed within a fluoropolymeric shell; and
a voltage supply connected to each of the dielectrically-coated electrodes to provide a voltage across the dielectrically-coated electrodes.

Referring to Figure 1 of Patent No. 6,139,694 and the corresponding description thereof in the specification, electrodes 16a-16i are separated on either side by dielectric sheets 20a-20i. Electrodes 16a-16i are not completely enclosed within a dielectric shell as shown in Figure 1B of the present application. This difference is significant in that the claimed configuration does not allow for the gas passing through the apparatus to ever contact any part of the electrodes, whereas in the '694 Patent, the edges of the electrodes are exposed to the gas. This exposure reduces the efficiency of the apparatus. Accordingly, the undersigned respectfully submits that claims 8-19 are not anticipated by the '694 Patent.

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CONCLUSION

The undersigned believes that claims 8-19 are allowable over the cited prior art and respectfully requests a notice of allowance to this effect. Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below. In addition, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to Deposit Account No. 501458.

Respectfully submitted,

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